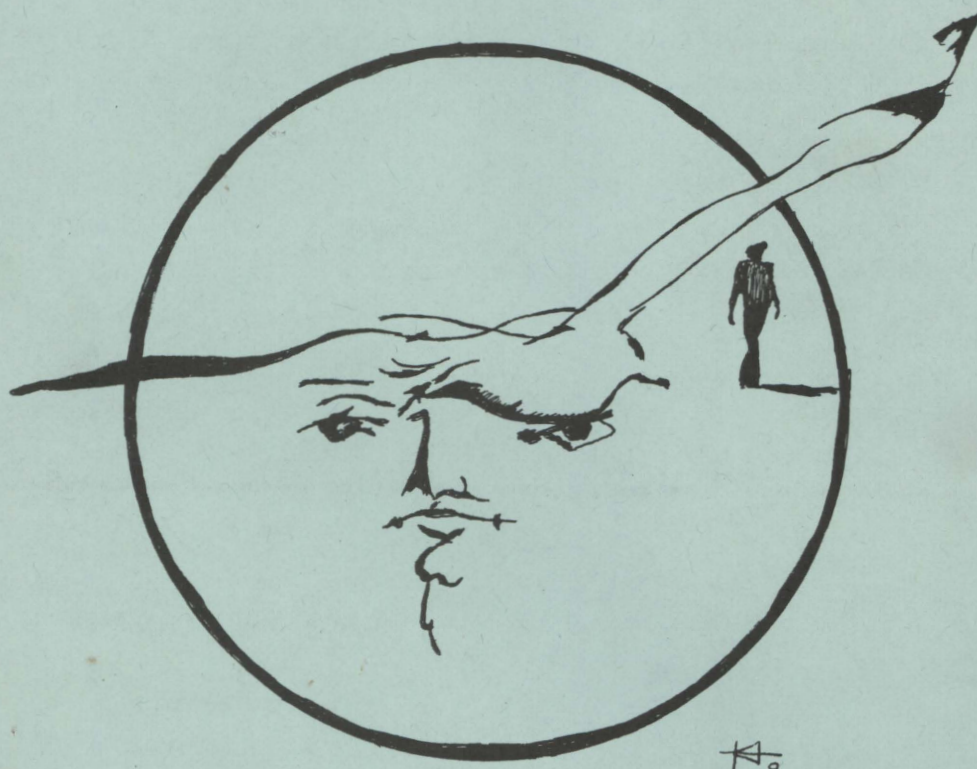


irish ufo news

APRIL 1978



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ignatius Donnelly.
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- Hollywood's 'Close Encounters' Reviewed.
- News & Comment, Reviews.

Irish UFO News is an independant magazine published twice yearly and dealing with UFOs and related subjects. It is available on subscription at a rate of 65pence per year (two issues) or 'over the counter' through various UFO organisations and book shops at the cover price shown. Prices are calculated to give overall zero profit.

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FRONT COVER: 'Conflict of Aspirations' by Karen Hind.

EDITORIAL

Ignatius Donnelly: Eccentric Genius.

What have Velikovsky, Shakespeare, the lost continent of Atlantis and Racial Harmony got in common? The answer is that they all featured in the incredible life of flamboyant Irish-American champion of off-beat causes, political reformer and eccentric genius, Ignatius Donnelly.

Donnelly was elected Lieutenant-Governor of the state of Minnesota while only 20. Four years later he became a Congressman and later a Senator. Politically, Donnelly was a reformer - his views on agricultural reform plying a part in his rapid rise to power, and for some years he edited a weekly paper called the 'anti-monopolist'. He wrote two novels during his life: 'Doctor Huguet', an eloquent plea for racial tolerance, and 'Caesar's Column' which, while based on the political corruption in his home State, was also a horrifying prediction of twentieth-century Fascism. The later novel sold over a million copies.

But it is Ignatius Donnelly's more off-beat interest that will interest us. In 1882 he published a sensational book called 'Ragnorok'. Ragnorok expounded a theory which is so close to Velikovsky's catastrophism that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Velikovsky was influenced by Donnelly's book. Donnelly devotes most of 'Ragnorok' to myths collected from all over the world which he interprets as evidence for planet wide catastrophies caused by periodic visits of a large comet. Like Velikovsky, Donnelly interprets Biblical myths in this sense too, including the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and even one of Velikovsky's more outrageous flights of fancy, that a comet may have stopped the Earth rotating on it's axis thus giving the illusion that Joshua had stopped the Sun in it's tracks. However, before I start a wrangle between the Irish and the Russians over who has prior claim to the theory of Catastrophism, let me point out that the theory was as absurd in Donnelly's time as it is in ours and that the honour is somewhat dubious. Donnelly's book was ignored by scientists at the time, but it was a success with the general public (as was Velikovsky) and attracted enthusiastic reviews in the press (as did Velikovsky). Incidentally, it is easy to see why these ideas have the power that they do. In most western countries children are brought up on two mutually incompatible (if interpreted literally) cosmologies. The modern child is taught that man was created and that he evolved; that miracles cannot happen and that they did happen, and that he must have a scientific, sceptical outlook as well as faith. Catastrophism and other ideas such as Von Daniken's offer another way out of this dilemma. In the case of catastrophism it is by offering a rational explanation for religion in terms of science, and in the case of the Von Daniken theories by offering a pseudo-rational explanation for both.

But Donnelly's eccentric genius was not limited to one particular area of 'crankiness'. He had at least two more. Alas, I can only deal with them briefly. The first was a belief in the lost continent of Atlantis. Again in 1882 (a busy year!) he published what was undoubtedly the most popular and influential book on the topic of Atlantis since the myth was first recorded by Plato. It was the first book to present the myth in a scientific light, and very convincing it was too. So convincing, in fact, that British Prime Minister, Gladstone, financed an expedition to look for the lost continent.

Another Donnelly-ism that has been revived and dusted off in recent years is his contention that Shakespeare's plays contain a complex cipher that proves they were written, not by Shakespeare, but by philosopher, Francis Bacon. This theory, (it is difficult to tell if it originated with Donnelly or not) he propounded in two books; 'The Great Cryptogram' and 'The Cipher in the Plays'.

When Ignatius Donnelly died in 1901 (six years after the birth of Immanuel Velikovsky in Russia) he was a candidate for the vice-Presidency of the United States.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

This group, formed about a year ago, consists of 43 scientists, science journalists, educators and magicians. The group is headed by philosopher Paul Kurtz, and some of the better-known members include Carl Sagan; the Behaviourist Psychologist, BF Skinner; magician James Randi, and SF writer, Isaac Asimov. Recent activities (which seem to be singularly lacking in anything that might even loosely be termed 'scientific investigations') include lodging a formal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission and two congressional sub-committees on an NBC documentary programme on psychic phenomena. Apparently the programme they were complaining about was of a very sensational and emotive nature, indicating among other things, that a 'psychic surgeon' can remove a tumour without incision. Another programme by NBC which the group objected to, clearly stated that the famous Nazca ground markings could only have been made with the help of visitors from outer space. The committee has also attacked Kirlian photography, the Velikovsky theories, Biorhythms, astrology and....you've guessed it....ufology.

Paul Kurtz sums up the group's objectives: "To refute what Charles Fair calls 'this new nonsense'. There is always the danger that once irrationality grows, it will spill over into other areas. There is no guarantee that a society so infected by unreason will be resistant to even the most virulent programmes of dangerous ideological sects". One is left feeling that the flamboyant attitude of this group displaying the banner of 'unbiased sceptics' can only make matters worse. The group seems to restrict its activities to fairly 'easy' targets. They attack the extraterrestrial theory in ufology without attempting to account for how the reports are actually generated and they ignore the fact that ESP has been demonstrated with a great deal more rigour than most experimental 'facts' in orthodox psychology. (In the statistical experiments of JB Rhine, Schmidt, Soal and others.) I am also tempted to say that the ESP experiments probably have a great deal more relevance to understanding human beings than have Skinner's experiments on the Psychology of various rodents.

NASA to Look at UFO Reports

United States President Carter has asked NASA to look into UFO reports. This seems to have been prompted by the large number of enquiries the White House has been receiving. The President himself has become identified with the UFO phenomenon since he reported a personal sighting to NICAP, and later by somewhat rashly promising "If I become President I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO's available to the public and scientists. At present NASA scientists are studying UFO reports going back about ten years to see whether a special enquiry should be set up. NASA is, however, reported that NASA is not at all keen to accept the 'UFO buck' and may try to pass it to some other agency: one NASA official cynically suggested the US Public Health Service. NASA seems to (justifiably) feel that however they handle the subject, it is currently so emotive that it is bound to adversely affect their public image. The American UFO organisations, however, are more enthusiastic. Dr. Hynek commented: "I applaud the decision on the part of NASA to look at the subject. And that is exactly what it should be - an impassionate unbiased look at the data gathered by the Centre (for UFO Studies), various UFO organisations and also by the Pentagon".

It is hoped that NASA will learn from the methodological blunders made by the Condon Report, though it does not seem that they have learned from its public relations errors. A NASA spokesman commented; "This is a scientific dilemma. How do you prove that something doesn't exist?" A very good point - but also indicative of a rather negative attitude.

BUFORA Planning Conference at Nottingham.

BUFORA are planning their third conference for April 15 and 16 in the George Hotel, Nottingham..

BUFORA are planning their third conference for April 15 and 16 in the George Hotel, Nottingham. The programme has not been fixed in any kind of detail, though the preliminary literature shows a certain bias towards what BUFORA coyly describe as 'Extreterrestrial Studies'. The conference charge is very reasonable at £6.00 for members and £6.75 for non-members. Details from: The Conference Organiser, 5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield, Newark, Nottingham NG22 8DG.

NASA Budget Cut-back Again.

President Carter's 1978 budget shows another cut-back in spending on space research. Carter uses these cut-backs to achieve spending increases in almost all other areas, including defence, with only a modest increase in the total budget. This, once again, makes it clear that, for the good of the Human race as a whole, the United States should no longer be forced to bear the entire responsibility and financial burden of the space programme. (The USSR seems to have got so far behind as to be almost declared non-runners, with the possible exception of orbital flight.) The space programme rates far too highly in terms of long-term human priorities to be at the whim of the fiscal policy of just one country.

The obvious short-term solution is the financing by other countries of specific programmes using American technology and expertise. For example, with North Sea oil coming 'on tap' Britain could afford to finance the Space Telescope project, and even a small and not very rich country such as Eire could contribute immeasurably to the world's cultural heritage by financing the inclusion of an artist and a poet on a shuttle flight. The latter should cost in the order of only fourteen thousand pounds, or about half a pence per inhabitant.

But in the longer term, the space programme should be the financial, cultural and scientific responsibility of the human race as a whole and should be managed by an international authority such as the United Nations. This is not as impossible a dream as it sounds, space programmes are controlled by scientists and engineers who have never had trouble crossing political and ideological barriers. The problem, of course, is that the initial decision and continuing finance would be the responsibility of politicians. However, the benefits would be enormous: think of what could be done if the surpluses of the oil-producing countries and the technological expertise of the American space scientists could be brought together. The war potential of space could remain unused by all sides, so quenching some truly horrific possibilities, and the lowering of international suspicions could lead to the channelling of 'defence' budgets into more constructive areas.

Spectrum Report.

Now 18 months in existence the group has been very busy in the field of UFO investigation and discussion with an ever-growing membership and a hard core of a working committee. RTE produced a half-hour show on the activities of the organisation in December '77. From a scientific aspect, it was not a great success, but from a public relations viewpoint it helped to make the general public aware of the existence of the group. In February Radio Dublin interviewed Allen Lawler and Tom Higgins on the air and continue to give mention to the UFO phenomena. We have to make a return visit to them soon. Tom Higgins is currently arranging another spot on TV in which we hope to feature a live audience discussion and a filmed report of a sighting. Peter O'Dwyer and Brendan Medlar are currently investigating a number of cases and Denise, my better half and Treasurer of the group, wishes the finances were being added to in a more spectacular manner than they are at the moment.

Owen McQuail.

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Miles Johnston and John Hind take a look at Hollywood's latest UFO Film and Miles Johnston comments on the reaction of the American Press.

REVIEW

Science Fiction films - from "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe" to "Star Wars"- have something of a reputation for mindlessness, but when they have dealt with the UFO theme they have usually sunk to a depth only otherwise to be found in Westerns. But all that looks like changing, for, as you read this, the latest high-budget blockbuster from Hollywood may well have hit your local cinema.

"Close Encounters of the Third Kind" it's called - the title comes from Dr. Hynek's classification system - it is directed by Stephen Spielberg of "Jaws" fame and it is already being compared with Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey". The theme is UFOs, but the UFO myth rather than the UFO phenomenon. Those ufologists who (perhaps having got wind of Hynek's involvement as scientific consultant) go to the film expecting a cold, documentary compilation of their favourite cases, or a

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

logical, reasonable extrapolation from what is known (or suspected) about the UFO phenomenon will be disappointed and probably a little angered. Most such will either be annoyed by the 'psychic overtones' and the dwelling on the human aspects, not to mention the almost millennarian climax where the infinitely benevolent "aliens" descend to save the world from moral decadence and atomic annihilation, or will dislike the "extraterrestrial assumption" in the first place. Superficially, the film is niove, but in another sense it is very much deeper than this. To quote 'Newsweek': "The power of 'Close Encounters' comes not so much from it's careful extrapolation of the most respectable UFO data, but rather from the Human reality that underlies the whole saucer phenomenon.....it works because of the purely human element; it's not about the paranormal, it's about people."



Adult and Child React to UFO: Melinda Dillon and Cary Guffey.



Reception Committee for a UFO: The Film Approaches Climax.

ce-3

The film brings several strands of related and very believable UFO experiences together to a superb and brilliant climax which ufologists will immediately recognise as that gold-pot at the end of the rainbow, the 'perfect sighting and normal human beings as the ultimate Great Movie Confrontation. This climax contains the film's power: the giant spaceship bathed in pearly light (the symbolism is definitely intentional) hovers over the awe-struck, neck-craning, eye-shielding assembled multitude of ordinary people and official investigators. There is hope; hope for a better future; for escape from a paranoid, sick world: the Second Coming re-vamped to meet modern needs and beliefs; the millenium. The message is naive, the appeal basic, but there are subtleties there for those who care to look. The contrast between the clicking, whirring, fussy technology assembled by the Earth team and the transient, subtle, infinitely advanced and perfectly controlled technology of the aliens is a superb illustration of Clarke's Law: "Any sufficiently advanced technology will be indistinguishable from magic." On a more cynical note, since the film transparently plays to what Jung called "The collective desire for salvation from the stars", Clarke's Law might be paraphrased: "Any sufficiently advanced intelligence will be indistinguishable from God".

If it is this climax which makes 'Close Encounters' memorable, it is the build-up that makes it credible and gives it much of its 'human interest'. The hero, played by Richard Dreyfuss, is very much your average man-in-the-street who has had a strange and obsessive image implanted in his mind after a UFO encounter. This leads him, through a series of adventures, to his place in the film's climax. There is a wonderful scene where, poltergeist-like, all the gadgets of a modern household go haywire; coke cans explode; electric gadgets switch on and off; mechanical toys race around the room.



Director Steven Spielberg:
Who loves ya baby?

ce-3

Special Effects man Trumbull: "Putting a UFO on screen is like photographing God."



Francois Truffaut, the French film director who plays the film's UFO expert comments: "We began this century with enthusiasm, but now there's a lot of bitterness and bad conscience. Our behaviour will become more and more suicidal. These science fiction films are a way of fighting this suicidal spirit, and I believe the audiences receive them that way." We think that we must differ with this point of view. The very real social forces which create 'Close Encounters' emotional impact are symptomatic of a great pessimism and a loss of self-confidence. Man has always yearned for salvation from some great outside force, but it is only in periods of decline that belief in such an immediate, tangible millenium comes to the surface. The danger, of course, is that when he finally realises that shining spaceships from the outer reaches of the galaxy arnt going to land and disgorge messages

of good tidings and great joy for all men, man will find it too late to do anything about his predicament for himself.

All successful films are products of their times; "2001", like the Apollo programme, would be as out of place in the late seventies as 'Close Encounters' would be in the late sixties. However, we think that man must realise that he must go to the stars, for he certainly cannot expect the stars to come to him (even metaphorically!). (Even if UFOs are extraterrestrial it seems they must have some sort of 'non-interference directive'. In any case, experience shows that contact with more advanced civilisations inevitably leads to decline.)

'Close Encounters' does not depend on the actual existence of UFOs, but only on the fact that people want to believe that they exist - and exist as extraterrestrial spacecraft. It is a brilliant reflection of one of the most powerful social images of our times; but don't let that put you off - it's also superb entertainment!

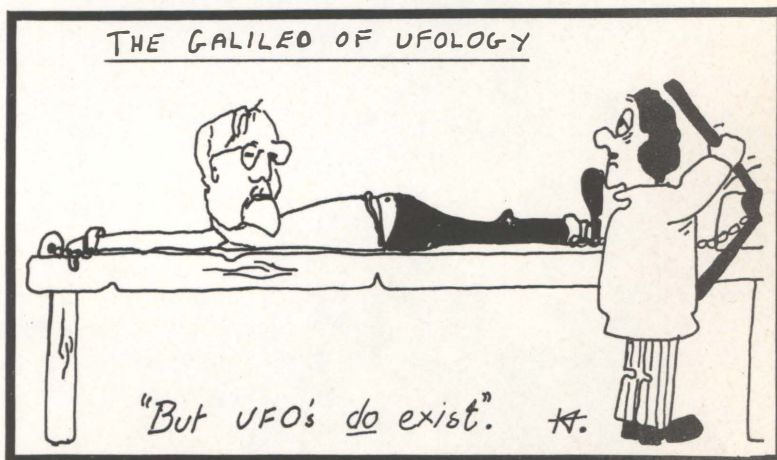
'Close Encounters' in the Press

The front page of the November '77 issue of 'Newsweek' magazine features Spielberg's huge, gleaming, orange UFO hanging over the film's 'silence group's' base in the mountains with the caption: "The UFO's are coming; Hollywood's 'Close Encounters'". The review article itself is excellent, though it gives a little too much of the game away. While the piece displays Newsweek's usual tendency to re-air out-dated and over-worn cliches - "quasi-comic vision of the emptiness and absurdity of our techno-pop society," no doubt 'Newsweek' knows what that means - it also shows a high degree of perception about the UFO phenomenon. There are several supplementary articles on Truffaut, Spielberg and Trumbull, who created the special effects, as well as a full-page spread on Dr. Hynek entitled "The Galileo of Ufology".

"It could happen next year, or tomorrow....it may have happened already", writes "Showbill", Canada's main film review magazine unimaginatively. The article consists of a brief explanation of the film and it's director. Again, it is very sober and the theme of UFO is treated seriously. Hynek's name is mis-spelled.

"Time" magazine describes the film's climax: "The confrontation between human alien is an ecstatic evolutionary experience....it is a wonderful opportunity for man to be re-born." Again the film is compared with "Star Wars" and "2001". This article begins: "The aliens are coming". You'd think that a topic with the potential of UFO's would spawn more journalistic originality.

'Playboy' magazine runs a short article describing how 'Close Encounters' was made, but more interesting is a spin-off in the form of a 21-page symposium on UFOs. Such illustrious names as Prof. James Harder, a director of APRO; Dr. JA Hynek; Frank Salisbury; Leo Sprinkle and Dr. Jacques Vallee, all to some extent 'pro' and Philip Klass and Dr. Ernest Taves, 'con'. On the whole the discussion is wide-ranging, stimulating and often amusing and is well worth a read. The magazine also contains other items of interest to (male) ufologists!



cc-3

The Toronto 'Daily Star' quotes Isaac Asimov as being "angry over UFO movie". Asimov says "there is absolutely no evidence that extraterrestrial spaceships have reached Earth". Furious over the fuss being created over the film he goes on to say: "It will only encourage people to accept a lot of nonsense on a trivial basis, and that keeps ignorant about the real nature of science". Hypocritical words for a science-fiction writer.

es

THE NEWBRIDGE UFO.

Close Encounter with a Saturn-shaped Object.

Newbridge is a small rural town, population about eight thousand, situated on the River Liffey about thirty kilometres south-west of Dublin. In July 1977 a UFO sighting by Mr. and Mrs. O'Doherty*, both publicans working in Newbridge, and their daughter, Mary, came to the notice of our local investigator, Tom Higgins. A detailed investigation of the case was carried out over the following months by a team comprising Miles Johnston, Tom Higgins, Allen Lawler and John Hind. The investigations included several hours of tape recorded interviews with the two main witnesses, Mrs. O'Doherty and Mary (aged 13), a detailed on-site reconstruction and a technical analysis of the data obtained. A more detailed, technical treatment of the case than we will present here can be found in our investigation report.**

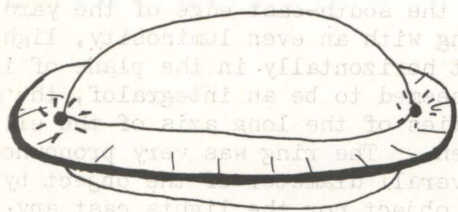
In the early morning of Monday, 18th April 1977, the O'Dohertys were sitting watching the late movie on television in the back room of their public house in Newbridge. At some time between half past midnight and two o'clock, Mary went out into the back yard for a breath of fresh air. The yard, which is directly adjoining the back room, is about 1.5 by 4 metres and is surrounded by buildings on all sides. Almost immediately her attention was attracted to a large elliptical object 'hovering' over the shed that forms the south-east edge of the yard. She describes it as clearly defined and shining with an even luminosity, light grey or silver in colour and having a ring set horizontally in the plane of its major axis. The disc was connected to, and seemed to be an integral of, the main object. Set in the ring at opposite extremities of the long axis of the ellipse were two coloured lights, one red and one green. The ring was very pronounced compared with the ellipsoid, increasing the overall diameter of the object by a factor of about one and a half. Neither the object nor the lights cast any light in the yard, as far as she could tell. According to both Mrs. O'Doherty and Mary, the object was very much larger than the apparent size of the full moon. At this point Mary called excitedly for her mother, and as she called the object started to spin, emitting a humming noise ("like a spinning top") and tilted on its side. She was of the definite impression that the object 'reacted' to her cry. It is interesting to note that although Mary is sure that the object started to spin, she cannot tell how she could detect the spin. At one point she speculates that it might have been because the object had a slight wobble. In any case the coloured lights were stationary relative to the rotating object. Mrs. O'Doherty, attracted by her daughter's cry, came out through the connecting door in time to get a short, but good, view of the object in this position. It then moved off at an elevation angle of about 45° in a north-westerly direction, becoming obscured by the roof of the next-door building after about two seconds. According to Mrs. O'Doherty, her husband followed her into the yard, though he claims not to have seen the object at this point. It is quite possible that he arrived on the scene too late. As soon as the object disappeared from view, the witnesses hurried out through the building and into the street where they were able to pick up the object again, this time a little smaller than the apparent size of the full moon, and receding rapidly to a point (according to Mrs. O'Doherty, taking about twenty seconds to do so).

Newbridge UFO/

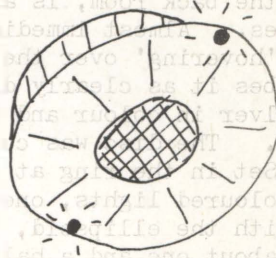
According to Mary, however, the object was visible for a period of about one hour after this.

The above outline of the sighting is adapted from direct information given by witnesses with no consideration to it's consistency or accuracy; I will discuss these aspects now.

Since the investigation took place some three months after the event, and since the observation was very transitive, consideration must be given to how accurate the witnesses recall of the event is likely to be. Both witnesses were interviewed separately and there were some differences in their descriptions. Mrs. O'Doherty described the two lights, but she said they were flashing 'like a lighthouse' (occulting), a point that Mary did not recall. The major difference in description is in the orientation of the object; Mrs. O'Doherty describes it as having it's major axis vertical and the coloured lights being on top and bottom. This discrepancy with Mary's description can clearly be explained in terms of the agreed dynamic characteristics of the object and the fact that, because she came to the scene later than Mary, the predominant part of the sighting for her was after the object had tilted on it's side. We feel that the fact that neither witness 'mentally rotated' the object to conform with the other's description argues strongly for the objectivity of the descriptions. One significant difference both in drawings and descriptions is that Mrs. O'Doherty describes the object as having a bulbous top section, a disc shaped 'rim' and a hollow base, while Mary describes it as having a bulbous base. The only other major discrepancy is that Mary reports that the object was visible for about an hour after Mrs. O'Doherty claims it had disappeared. We feel that it is likely that Mary's attention shifted from the receding object to a star at some point. Despite these discrepancies, Mary particularly struck the investigators as an excellent witness. She seemed to have a very retentive memory for detail and described, in our opinion, what she saw in an objective, almost matter-of-fact manner, rarely interpreting and never contradicting herself. She never gave the impression, as her mother sometimes did, that she was embellishing the details in order to please the investigators.



Drawing of object by Magella.



Drawing of object by Mrs. O'Rourke.

One interesting aspect of the case is that it was possible to obtain fairly reliable parametric data since, in many cases, these could be compared with identifiable fixed references. For example, the object was first seen subtending a small angle to the roof ridge of a nearby building between two points that were clearly defined by adjacent buildings. During a fairly elaborate reconstruction exercise, each witness was asked to mark in the shape and relative size of the object against a sketch of the skyline silhouette and from these we calculated angles subtended at the witnesses eye (a measure of size to distance ratio) of the object at this, closest, position. These calculations show that the object was relatively very large indeed, the actual figures being 9° and 5° according to Mrs. O'Doherty and Mary respectively. (The full moon subtends approximately 1°). We feel that it is unlikely that Mary has over-estimated the size of the object by more than about 25% since considerable importance was placed on this test by the investigators and since she estimated the relative size of the full moon (which was not visible at the time) to within 20% using the same method. Now, Mary was

Newbridge UFO/

quite sure that the object was 'hovering' over the roof of the building, which would have put it at a distance of about 8 metres from her and indicates that the object's actual size was about 1 metre across it's longest axis. It is not clear how Mary could tell that the object was at this distance, though if it actually was, normal stereoscopic vision would adequately explain this impression. It is also possible that she was subconsciously deducing that it was this close based on her impression that it 'reacted' to her cry. We conclude, however, that the object was probably not further than 100 metres from the witnesses and, since both witnesses describe a clear three dimensional characteristic, probably a lot closer.

The investigators felt that sufficient seemingly reliable data was obtained to enable us to rule out any mundane explanations, though we do not wish to rule out some unusual natural phenomena as the stimulus. The data seems consistent with the hypothesis that the witnesses observed an object as described, it's largest dimension being between 1 and 8 metres and it's distance between 8 and 80 metres. The coloured lights suggest artificial construction and there is very limited evidence that the object reacted to actions on the part of one of the witnesses.

NOTES

* 'O'Doherty' and 'Mary' are pseudonyms.

** Anyone seriously interested in this report may obtain a loan copy from John Hind at the editorial address.

REVIEW

Phenomenology

Phenomena: A Book of Wonders. John Michell and Robert Rickard.

Strange Phenomena. William Corliss.

For some strange reason modern science seems to frown upon the idea that people can still make inexplicable observations. These two books provide an excellent antidote to this position and in the process illustrate that science is far from complete. While both books deal with the same type of data (with rather different emphasis) they are very different in character. 'Phenomena' is a very beautiful book; but a work of art, not science. The phenomena - everything from showers of frogs and fishes to levitation and spontaneous flight, monsters projected thought-forms and spontaneous human combustion to the hollow earth theory - are each presented in a short two page spread with many pictures. Each article is devoted to one loose classification of phenomena, presented in an anecdotal and highly readable form. The book, however, is virtually useless as a reference work since it contains few references to sources, no bibliography and no index. For me, despite the book's obvious visual appeal, it failed. Why it failed is a difficult question to answer, but I think it was partly that it started with a very beautiful and brilliant piece of philosophical writing entitled 'The Phenomenal World' and that, after this, the sections devoted to the phenomena themselves were something of an anticlimax. 'Phenomena' is very reasonably priced and, if only for the pictures and introduction, no ufologist should be without a copy.

William Corliss' 'Source Books' have been available for some time now in America but they are still little-known this side of the Atlantic. There are now six series: 'Strange Universe', two volumes on unexplained astronomical observations; 'Strange Life', mainly on monsters; 'Strange Planet', geological curios; 'Strange Phenomena'; 'Strange Artifacts', unexplained archaeology; and 'Strange Minds' which is mainly on para-psychology. It is the two volumes in the 'Strange Phenomena' series that I intend to review here, though the other volumes may be reviewed at a later date. The 'Source Books' contain articles from scientific journals and other sources on anomalous phenomena, directly reprinted with source and date given. The loose-leaf ring binders classify all entries by type and excellent indexes are provided by subject, by date of event, by place of event, by author

Review/

and by source. The scope: temporally from about 1800 (there are some events from before this) to the present day; geographically, the whole world; topically from strange sky-falls, through mirages and lights-in-the-sky, to ball lightning. Of particular interest to ufologists will be the lengthy reprinted article on the Welsh religious revival lights of the 1900's and the sections on fireballs and earthquake lights. The books are a bit pricey, especially as they must be ordered direct from the United States, but the serious Ufologist or Fortean¹ will find them well worth it.

Magazines

As a repository for delightfully batty theories, Pulsar produced by the Preston group, 'Pulse' is unsurpassed. In the latest issue yet another terrestrial zodiac is discerned in the field, road and river patterns of the English countryside; it is speculated that Stonehenge was built by a colony of ancient Egyptians (!) we are told that there are male and female mazes, the former representing the 'speed of time' and the latter 'the angles of space'; and finally that 144 can be described as the 'marriage maker'. Why should 144 be the 'marriage maker'? Well, it's obviously because $144 \times 9 = 1296$ and $144 \times 35 = 5040$, why else? And, prey, what do the 'angles of space' and the 'speed of time' mean? But then Pulse states Einstein's energy equation as 'E=MCS' which, presumably explains all!

MUFOB magazine has reached its tenth anniversary (years, not issues!) which is really quite an achievement for a magazine in the UFO field. MUFOB has always maintained a somewhat radical attitude to the phenomenon and it has often seemed that it has spent much of its time poking fun (often much deserved) at the other ufologists. (I cannot remember the last time it reviewed a book favorably!) I confess to being an admirer of MUFOB; it has brought a much needed aura of scholarship to the subject.

UFO Research Review magazine takes an editorial standpoint that looks down upon non-physical interpretations of UFO phenomena. However an interesting item in the latest issue reports the results of a poll conducted by psychologists and reported in the magazine 'Psychology'. Apparently considerably more people polled believed in extraterrestrial life than believed in God, and more believed that Earth had been visited by extraterrestrial beings than believed in God in the male part of the sample. (If anyone has a copy of this issue of 'Psychology' magazine I would like to borrow it).

The editor of UFO Research Review has a habit of taking literary swipes at non 'nuts and bolts' ufology. In this issue he calls MUFOB magazine "a little old fashioned and conservative". This point of view might lead one to conclude that his own position is somewhat to the left (ufologically speaking) of Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophists, but don't worry, it's only propaganda!

Ufology Notebook is a privately published, but very professional magazine by American ufologist, Allen Greenfield. It would be presumptive of me to judge this very complex publication on the one issue that I have so far received, but a major theme seems to be an attempt to draw parallels between modern physics and mysticism. This leads many of the writers to confuse - consciously or otherwise - the concept of a highly malleable 'individual reality' with that of a very much more concrete 'consensus reality' of which modern physics is a part. The confusion is nicely illustrated by a poem by Allen Greenfield entitled 'The Age of Reason' which I will take the liberty of quoting in full. 'Ray' refers to American ufologist, Ray Palmer, who died recently.

Imagination, beyond the stars.
And so an era ends.
You're told there's no life on Mars,
And you feel you've lost your friends.
And now, poor Ray's gone from us,
No more caves, or holes at poles.

Review/

And the newcomers wonder about the fuss
 Having sold their souls for goals.
 So, here we are, our brave new age,
 No need to feel; just think.
 And you think it was at such a stage
 Atlantis began to sink.
 It's lofty towers were no match
 For logicity.
 It dropped, like falling through a hatch,
 And sank beneath the sea.

I think, perhaps, the answer to that is that one can have souls and goals, logicity and polar holes, but not at the same time. Atlantis, life on Mars, and extraterrestrial spaceships are myths, and as such they should be enjoyed but not, unless they can be made to conform with consensus reality, believed in.

New Study Throws Light on Abduction Cases.

What Can We Learn From Hypnosis of Imaginary Abductees Alvin Lawson.

Hypnotic abduction UFO cases are rare in the British Isles, so some of our readers may be unfamiliar with this type of case. In the United States such cases seem to be much more common. (Reasons for this are probably complex, but it may be more to do with differences in the way we investigate cases than to inherent differences in the phenomenon). The best known example of this genre is probably the Betty and Barney Hill case. The scenario is usually something like this: A UFO sighting is reported and either the investigator or witness perceives that a period of time is unaccounted for. The investigator arranges to have the witness hypnotised - the theory being that under hypnosis a recall will occur of information as to the events during the discontinuity which have, for some reason, become 'blocked'. Under hypnosis the witness relates a story involving involuntary 'abduction' by 'alien entities', being taken aboard a 'spaceship' and of events occurring aboard the 'spaceship'. Professor Lawson's work involves an attempt to produce a 'control experiment' for this type of case.

Eight persons, selected as 'creative, verbal types', were hypnotised and instructed to imagine the classic sequence of events in abduction cases. It was expected that a great deal of prompting would be required and a set of detailed questions were provided for the use of the hypnotist. However, it was found that all except one of the witnesses who were good hypnotic subjects provided excellent descriptive narratives when prompted only with very brief questions structuring the basic sequence of events. All these subjects, none of whom had above average knowledge of UFOs, provided narratives not substantially different from those obtained in 'real' abduction events. A more objective comparison with selected 'real' cases was also made. This involved comparison of the number of 'data bits' in several different categories. The experimentally created accounts showed a highly significant degree of similarity to the 'real' cases.

Prof. Lawson's work is far from conclusive, but it must through considerable doubt on the physicalistic, literal interpretation of the hypnotic abduction type of case. (The term CE 4 has been suggested to cover a group of cases including this type.) The problem with these cases has been that we fully understand neither hypnosis nor UFOs, so in a case involving both, it is difficult to know which unexplained aspects to attribute to our lack of understanding of which phenomenon. Anyone who considers hypnosis as a kind of souped-up lie-detector test or as roughly equivalent to a heavy dose of sodium pentathol is advised to go to a good reference work on modern history or sociology and look up 'Bridey Murphy'.

Lawson's work seems to suggest that the heightened suggestibility and the imagination of witnesses under hypnosis may be partially responsible for the hypnotic abduction cases, but, as always, the problem is more complex than this. It is interesting that the experiments also provided evidence for a telepathic

exchange of information between the 'witness', previous 'witnesses' and the investigators.

booknotes

The long-awaited French book, "The Crack in the Universe" by Jean-Claude Bourret is finally available in English. It is published by Neville Spearman. Two UFO classics have been republished recently. Flying Saucer Review's "The Humanoids" has been republished in what the publishers call "augmented version", by Futura, and C.J. Jung's "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things seen in the Sky", by Routledge. We will bring you a review of the latter just as soon as we can find someone who understands it.

Books and Magazines Reviewed in This Issue:

"Phenomena: A Book of Wonders" is published by Thames and Hudson.
William Corliss' "Source Books" are privately published and details may be obtained from the compiler at Glen Arm, Maryland, 21057, USA.
Prof. Lawson's paper was privately circulated. I will lend anyone interested a copy.

PULSAR: 29 Bairstow Street, Preston, Lancashire.

MUFOB: 11 Beverly Road, New Maldon, Surrey KT3 4AW.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW: 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB.

UFOLOGY NOTEBOOK: 1399 deBeers Drive, No.6, Tampa, Florida 33612, USA.

Footnotes.

1. "Serious Fortean" is rather a strange idea since the least serious Fortean ever must have been Charles Fort himself, but I can assure you that there are serious Forteans.
2. Yes, CG Jung is the CG Jung you're thinking of. "Flying Saucers" is one of his lesser known works.

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«QUOTES»

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DALE: "Gosh! What is that, Flash?"

FLASH: "I've never seen anything like it. It must be from outer space!"

Extract from the script of "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe".

* * *

"Whenever a debate between the mystics and the scientifics has been once for all decided, it is the mystics who have usually proved to be right about the facts, while the scientifics had the better of it in respect to the theories."

William James. President's address to the SPR, 1896.

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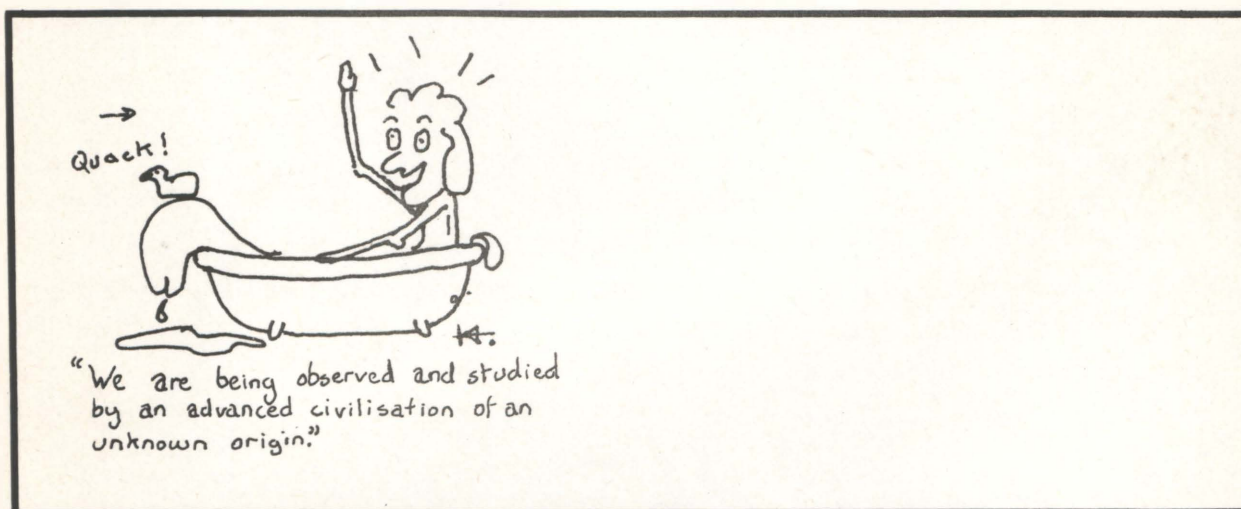
THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL COVERUP

Chris Gaffney takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the extraterrestrial theory.

In the beginning there was the fiery chariot, silvery disc and other such aerial devices observed by the Greeks, Egyptians and other people who happened to be around at the time. Then came World War II (after a brief interlude) and the invention of.....the atom bomb and the flying saucer. Flying crokery was seen all over the world by all kinds of people and the revered pioneers of ufology were quick to come up with.....the Extraterrestrial Theory:

"We are being observed and studied by an advanced civilisation of an unknown origin".

Then there were the Contact Cases where someone who is quite content minding his own business is unwillingly taken aboard a spacecraft and given a message, vis.: "You are one of the chosen few. (Aliens have a flair for Biblical terminology.) We're from Planet X (turn right at the Milky Way and you can't miss it) and in two years time we're gonna have a mass landing. Would you be so kind as to prepare the world for us?"



Which, of course our friendly contactee sets out to do. He sets up a contactee cult whose members spend all their spare time standing on mountain tops chanting and praying to their space gods who are going to save the world from doom (etc). The big day comes; all the members gather together on the mountain top; the air is ripe with anti-climax. At the break of dawn all that is left is.....one disillusioned contactee cult and one contactee desperately trying to blend in with the woodwork.

And the ufologists get to thinking: "Why does one UFO occupant say he is from Pluto, another from Venus, one from the far side of the moon and another from the centre of the Earth? If they could get their story straight it would save us a lot of embarrassment. Surely it's about time their observations were finished and they went home, or landed or something?

But what if not only the governments, but also the UFOs themselves are covering-up? What if they let something slip out, something we know that we shouldn't know? Suppose they deliberately make the evidence seem ridiculous to divert our attention from the extraterrestrial theory and the scientists from the phenomenon. Maybe they didn't come here to observe but to do something else and we pose as much a threat to their existence as we suppose they do to ours.

Maybe we have already discovered the answer, maybe it's right under our noses, but we just don't recognise it.

"There's more to UFOs than fools the eye" -Jacques Vallee.

ENDNOTES

This magazine is necessarily a compromise. While it is intended mainly for those actively interested in ufology and related subjects, the current high interest in this area is expected to lead to it's reaching a wider audience and we hope it contains material interesting and stimulating to all our readers.

A few words primarily for newcomers to the subject: we hope that reading this issue of IUFON will convince you that UFOs are a much more complex subject than they are presented in the public press. We consider that the simplification peddled by the press and also, to a large extent, by scientists that 'either they are extraterrestrial spaceships or they don't exist' is highly misleading. You won't find anyone telling you what UFOs are, or what they are not, in this, or any future, edition of this magazine. What you will find are reports of investigations into strange sightings and experiences mostly from ordinary people. We can assure you that the greatest care has been taken to ensure that these accounts are as accurate and reliable as possible. All have been investigated by competent investigators. You will also find some speculation about the nature of UFOs; such should be read critically. This magazine, and ufology in general, is not for blind followers of authority-either the legitimate, but fallible, authority of the 'scientific establishment' or the pseudo-authority exuded by the more sensational writers in the field. In ufology, like most other subjects, there are no easy answers. If you like simple solutions we respectfully suggest that you take up an interest that offers them- like politics.

If you still think ufology is for you we would very much like to hear from you. If you think you would like to become involved in investigating UFO sightings and experiences please write to either Owen McQuail or to John Hind. If you would nearly like to find out more about this fascinating and important subject please write to John Hind who will send you an information sheet with a fairly extensive list of suggested reading material.

We are always interested to hear about possible UFO experiences and if you think you have had a sighting or experience - or know someone who has - we would urge you to write or telephone either Owen McQuail or John Hind. All reports are treated in the strictest confidence, and we would never publish your name without your permission.

Addresses and phone numbers are on the inside front cover.